

Year 11 English - Holiday Tasks

Hi,

In VCE it is important that you understand the pace at which the course moves. In the first semester you will study two novels and undertake a significant amount of essay, creative and argumentative writing. As such it is important that you come to school at the beginning of the year having completed this preparation work.

You don't want to start the year behind as it will be difficult for you to catch up and you will notice the effects not only in your immediate marks but also in your preparedness for Year 12.

As there is no formal tutorial or step up program this year it is important that you read the following information carefully and complete the tasks set before returning. This will form a part of your first assignment. If you have difficulty you can email me at a.young@braemar.vic.edu.au to seek clarification. If you don't email through to me your teacher will assume you have been able to work through the attached material and are prepared for the first lesson.

Your first text study is 'I'm Not Scared' by Niccolò Ammaniti which is about a young boy who uncovers a kidnapping and has to decide what to do about it. It is set in Southern Italy in the 1970's and is told by the boy some thirty years later. We would suggest starting this work immediately after receiving your booklist

The preparation work has four steps:

- 1. Read the novel (at an average reading pace about 6 hours)**
- 2. Annotate the first section (1 hour)**
- 3. Create a set of summary notes for the whole text (2 hours)**
- 4. Do some research into the context of the story (1 hour)**

Given I don't consider reading homework I think this means about an hour a week during January. If you left this until the last week of your break it will feel like a lot more!

Annotating Your Reading

So you need to read the whole book first then return to the first section. There are not chapters in this text so the first section is pages 1-42.

What you will find attached is an example of a short section from early in the book. At this point Michele (the main character), has just set up that he and his friends are having a bike race and when one of the tough boys picks on another of his friends he comes to their defence and ends up having to do a dare as a result. This is where he discovers a young boy around his age who has been kidnapped. I have demonstrated a way of annotating the text which you will need to try on a larger section. It works best if you have already read the book and know what is going to happen in the story.

I use a system of annotation that seems to work for many students. You will need a pencil and some little sticky notes (they are called 'flags' I think). There are lots of types – you don't have to use the exact ones that I have.

- You allocate one colour of flag to any developments in Character.
- You allocate one colour of flag to any description of Setting and Context.
- You allocate one colour of flag to any Symbolism, Metaphor or Imagery.

Use the pencil to write yourself notes in the margins. If you read a word and think it does something interesting then circle it. If while reading you ask yourself questions write them down even if you know the answer. More importantly if you ask yourself a question that you don't know write it down in the margin too.

Summary of I'm Not Scared

Now that you have your close reading brain switched on it is time to think about forming a set of summary notes on the entire text. These will come in very handy when studying the text and will really help with your essay. They will also make up part of your assessment.

You will need to make a set of dot point notes that highlight the 20 most important moments from the text. You can do this by hand or on your iPad.

In the summary notes you should detail:

- The moment - Decide what are the 20 most important / pivotal moments in the story are and sum them up in a sentence or two. This should be done in sequence and try to pick fairly specific moments.
- Why is it important - Once your key moments are decided you need to indicate with three or four points why these moments are so important.
- Quote Bank - Choose three quotes from this moment and note them down. If the quote is more than 2 or three sentences long just write the start of it and then put the page reference. This will come in useful in your essay preparation.

Eg:

1. Michele stands up to Skull and ends up taking the forfeit instead of Barbara

- This shows Michele has a strong moral code and sense of right and wrong
- It also shows he is willing to sacrifice himself for others
- It leads to him finding the boy in the hole
 - 'Barbara tightened her lips and her fists, I saw her swallow a lump the size of a tennis ball. She
 - dropped her head, but she didn't cry. I respected her.' p19
 - 'During those days it was Barbara Mura, the fat girl, she was the lamb to the slaughter.' p18
 - "'Wait! I came last," I heard myself saying. Everyone turned. "Yes," I gulped. "I want to do it." p20

Context Research

This is the last thing, I promise! As the text is set in a place and time you are largely unfamiliar with and as the time and place of the story provides the reason for much of the action it is important you look into and learn something about the setting.

Spend about an hour or so looking at the time and place this text is set in. Using Wikipedia is fine but feel free to cast a wide net too. You might like to take screen shots of your research to hold onto the data or you could use an app like Instapaper or Slingnote to capture the relevant text. I'll leave this up to you.

Some things to have a look at are:

- Italy 1978
- Aldo Moro
- The Red Brigades
- 'Wash Bears'
- Anni di Piombo
- John Paul Getty
- Milan
- Italy kidnappings 1970s

Once you have read the text you might have noted down a few more specific things to look into.

Good luck and remember this is to be completed by the first day back. If you need help or have an issue with this you must email me before returning to school.